

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for ~~blackening~~treating a components made of steel, the method comprising:

arranging the component inside a processing space, wherein the surface of the component is untreated;

subjecting the untreated surface to a heat treatment, with simultaneous administration of wherein supplying simultaneously a carbon-emitting medium inside a into the processing space in order to achieve a blacked surface of the component;

performing the heat treatment at a low pressure, wherein a low pressure from 0.01 mbar to 15mbar is applied; and

regulating a carbon content inside the processing space as a function of pressure, wherein the pressure is varied in order to reach a change of atmosphere in the processing space through the duration of the treatment.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature from 200° C to 700° C.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature from 300° C to 570° C.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the heat treatment takes place at a temperature from 350° C to 475° C.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a regulation of a processing time takes place as a function of temperature and/or pressure.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a carbon content is regulated inside the processing space as a function of temperature.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the carbon-emitting medium is administered in the form of a gas.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the carbon-emitting medium is administered in the form of a liquid.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein hydrocarbons are administered as the carbon-emitting medium.

13. – 20. (Canceled)